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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,459	03/26/2004	Yoshiyuki Tanaka	61282-069	7647

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NAM THANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2824

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,459

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, YOSHIYUKI

Examiner

Nam T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12-17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/5/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: EAST search.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response the amendment filed on 6/6/05, which has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in—(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-9, 12-17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wantanabe et al. (Pub. No.: US. 2004/0061518).

Regarding claims 1 and 15, Figure 10 of Wantanabe et al. disclose a first circuit (2) having a prescribed circuit function (a functional block 2 could be performed read, write, rewrite or erase function); wherein a second circuit (1) is formed so as to be able to be connected externally to the first circuit (2) so as to give the first circuit a non-always-used particular function (when block 8 is off, blocks 1 and 2 is disconnected and when block 8 is on, the blocks 1 and 2 is connected.) and to thereby allow the first circuit to perform the particular function.

Regarding claims 2 and 17, the second circuit (1) comprises an auxiliary function for realizing the particular function that has been given to the first circuit (2); and the auxiliary function operates only in response to an instruction from the first circuit

(When block 8 is on, there is a connection between blocks 1 and 2. Therefore, the functions of 2 blocks would be performed.)

Regarding claim 3, the first circuit (2) is used solely when block 8 is off.

Regarding claim 4, the second circuit (1) is configured so as to be able to operate solely (see fig. 10, paragraph [0215]).

Regarding claim 5, the second circuit (1) cannot be used except during operation of the particular function (block 8 of fig. 10 controls the function of the second circuit).

Regarding claims 6 and 16, the first circuit (2) has a function of outputting a control start signal for activating the second circuit (1) and a function of receiving a signal for giving the particular function that is generated by the second circuit (1).

Regarding claims 7 and 19, fig. 10 discloses the first circuit (2) has a function of permitting operation of the particular function only when detecting electrical connection of the second circuit (1), and not permitting operation of the particular function and permitting operation of only the prescribed circuit function when not detecting electrical connection of the second circuit (the first and second circuits are controlled by block 8, see more details in paragraph [0215-0218]).

Regarding claim 8, the first circuit (2) is a memory circuit (see fig. 3) and the particular function of the second circuit (1) is a function of writing data to the memory circuit (block 1 MPU could perform a function that writes data to the memory 2).

Regarding claim 9, the first circuit (2) comprises a reading circuit for a memory (see fig. 86 and paragraph [0511]) and the particular function includes a circuit for rewriting of the memory (see paragraph [0569]).

Regarding claim 12, a circuit function of the first circuit (2) is determined by connections and disconnections of electric fuses; and the particular function includes a circuit for connecting and disconnecting the electric fuses (see fig. 102 and 103 paragraph [0154]).

Regarding claim 13, the prescribed function includes a circuit 2 (1st internal circuit) for performing reading on a memory in the first circuit 2, and the particular function is a function of controlling output of information of the memory to an external apparatus (1st internal circuit of block 2 could be performed the controlling output of the memory).

Regarding claim 14, paragraph [0011] discloses the detecting of threshold voltage change by monitoring charge leaking from the floating gate of a memory cell. Therefore, a testing circuit of memory block must have.

Regarding claims 20 and 21, fig. 10 discloses the first device (2) comprising on one major surface of a package, first connection terminals (5) for connection to an external circuit (1 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 35), and the second device (1) is formed so as to be able to be connected to the first device via second connection terminals (see paragraph [0027]) that are formed on the other major surface of the package that is opposed to the first major surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10-11 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to:

"the first circuit comprises a redundant circuit that is provided with wiring for forming prescribed logic blocks in the first circuit, and is configured in such a manner that its circuit function is determined by external redundancy setting" as claimed in the dependent claim 10; or

"each of the first device and the second device comprises an exchange circuit for serially supplying or receiving control signals for giving the particular function and a register for storing control signals for giving the particular function" as claimed in the dependent claim 18.

Conclusion

5. The following prior art, which is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure although not relied upon, includes:

Yamane (Pub. No.: US 2004/0022089) or Smith et al (US. Pat. No. 6,784,797 discloses semiconductor integrated circuit similar to that of the present application, but fail to disclose the claimed limitations as described above.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nam T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1878. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (571)272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6/22/05

Nam T Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2824



ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER